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BOOK REVIEWS

ALL BOOKS LISTED HERE MAY BE OBTAINED, POSTAGE PREPAID, UPON APPLICATION TO THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, COLORADO BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

My Four Years in Germany. By *Ex-Ambassador James W. Gerard.* Doran Company, New York. 450 p. Illustrated. 1917. \$1.50.

"There are too many thinkers, writers, and speakers in the United States; from now on we need the doers, the organizers, and the realists who alone can win this contest for us, for democracy and permanent peace!" The author uses these words in his "Foreword" as an expression of his own opinion, but, nothing daunted, our virile ambassador to Germany, till severing of relations, gives us nearly five hundred more pages of writing, and rather interesting writing the most of it is. Mr. Gerard begins by telling us of the eight million five hundred thousand German effectives under arms, and of his firm belief that Germany will not break under starvation or make peace because of revolution. We are told that Germany offers no refuge politically for the reasonable men of liberal inclinations. The hope within Germany is, that such men may yet create a Liberal Party. This party must be something different from the Social Democrat party, which is for the most part made up of outcasts. Some of the more conservative of the social democrats, however, may by joining with the remains of the National Liberal and progressive party, and with the more liberal of the conservatives, make such a Liberal Party possible. All this would be the more hopeful if a voluntary dissolution of the Centrum as a Roman Catholic party could be brought about. The first step in internal political reforms in Germany is that the Chancellor and his ministers should be responsible to the Reichstag and bound to resign after a vote of want of confidence by that body. The present vicious system of voting in Prussia must end. He closes with the plea that there "must be no German peace." The book gives the impression of a free and easy American having a breezy time with himself; as an example of this the author does not hesitate to call some of his visitors such as Miss Jane Addams and her fellow suffragists "cranks." From the tone of the work, no reader of this book would suspect the writer of being a diplomat.

Woodrow Wilson and the World's Peace. By *George D. Herron.* Mitchell Kennerley, New York City. 173 p. 1917. \$1.25.

Here is one who bitterly opposed militarism in the United States, writing from Switzerland a passionate eulogy of President Wilson for leading the American people into the war against the Central Powers. He explains his apparent inconsistency in the fact that Prussianism is the foe he has attacked consistently and constantly. He points to the fact that eight years ago he declared that "Prussian Germany did not belong to the category of civilized nations." Especially interesting are his interpretations of President Wilson's address to the Senate of January 22, 1917, and of the note to the belligerents of December 18, 1916, presented as they were written at the time these reached the public. In the light of subsequent events, they are remarkably shrewd and far-seeing interpretations. His most valuable contribution here to American thought at the present time is the essay "The Pro-German Morality of the Pacifist," wherein he reiterates his conviction expressed in "The Menace of Peace" (see ADVOCATE Book Reviews for October) that this war is in truth Armageddon and that he who is not with the Allies is against the spirit of Christ. He refuses to recognize Christ as the "Divine Absentee" in this war. "I do not mean," he says, "that Christ is other than the Prince of Peace; he stands for a peace so profound, so determined and delectable, that it surpasses any experience or understanding of our mortal commonalty . . . a peace proceeding from the conquest of life, and not from evasion or compromise . . . that will be reached . . . through the capture and orchestration of all material and mechanic facts, all the natural and social forces, with which man has to do. . . . Christ needs no invitation to the thick of the human struggle; he has never been absent from it. It was there he spoke, there he did his work. . . . It is no less than a blasphemy, no less than a besmirchment of his name, which places Christ apart from the battles of the day."

A History of the Great War, Vol. II: The British Campaign in France and Flanders, 1915. By *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,* George H. Doran Co., New York. 247 p., with index and maps. 1917. \$2.00.

This monumental work is the second of a series in which Sir Arthur records very minutely the activities of the British Army on the Western Front. His first volume, covering the events of 1914, chronicled the year of defense; the volume which is to follow the present one will be concerned with the year of attack (1916). The present volume is the history of the year of equilibrium. In a sense it is, therefore, the least dramatic of the three, and yet the reader will not fail to find in its pages a story as thrilling in action as it is depressing in its summary of scanty results acquired at tremendous loss of life. The book begins with the minor occurrences that ushered in the year of 1915, the season when the activities of the British troops were painfully limited by lack of ammunition. With March 10th commences the first great action at Neuve Chapelle and Hill 60. Closely following on this came the tremendous Second Battle of Ypres, lasting from April 22 to May 24, and begun by Germany's first gas attack, which opened a gap in the Allied lines five miles in extent. The simultaneous though shorter action at Richebourg-Festubert is next detailed, and then come "The Trenches of Hooge." It was during the fight in the latter district that, on July 30, the Germans first made use of liquid fire. The volume concludes with an account of the battle of Loos. Sir Arthur has, indeed, succeeded in arraying in appealing form the history of this year of battles. While his chapters are flooded with detail as to troops and arms engaged, the names of the commanders, and much other information necessary to record, he has yet succeeded in making them exceedingly readable. Doubtless there is a bias in favor of the English arms which places its own interpretation upon the various gains and losses recorded, but there is every evidence, at the same time, that the intention of the author is to be scrupulously fair. Little of what the newspapers term "color" is to be found in this work, and certainly none is needed to make it impressive reading. The lurid light that illumines any such scrupulously exact record of the war comes straight from the battlefield itself and is self-sufficient. Nearly every page of this book is a record of tens, and hundreds, and even thousands, of brave men who receive but a flash of immortality as they pass quickly into action, and are as instantly blotted out from the sight of man.

The Christian in War Time. By *Frederick Lynch, D. D.*, with additional chapters by *Charles E. Jefferson, D. D., Robert E. Speer, D. D., William I. Hull, Ph. D., and Francis E. Clarke, D. D.* Fleming H. Revell Company, New York and Chicago. 90 p. 1917. 75 cts.

Such an array of D. D.'s might well lure the unwary Christian, sore beset by the conflicts of the present day. What his emotions will be after a perusal of this near textbook of Christian inspiration it is difficult to say. We doubt that he will feel his spirit uplifted, his faith made sure, his knowledge of the goodness of the God he has served in less anxious days deepened and clarified. Here is only lukewarm common sense disguised as Christianity. Nothing evil appears in these pages. There is nothing here that will soil the reader's mind or sully his patriotism—for the most part only a despairing vacuity masquerading as the spirit of the Christ.

The Challenge to America. By *Arthur L. Weatherley.* 14 p. No. 3 of "Messages for the Times," published by the Free Religious Association of America, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

Peace Preparedness. By *John Schuette.* Procurable from the author, Manitowoc Savings Bank, Manitowoc, Wis.

Rating the Several Sovereign Nations on a Basis Equitable for the Allotment of Representatives to a World Parliament. By *Harry H. Laughlin.* Reprinted from *The Scientific Monthly* for December, 1916. Procurable from the author, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York.